

NOTE ON A SUPPOSED NEW ICERYA.

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(READ 30TH MARCH, 1892.)

THE genus *Icerya* was created by Signoret for the reception of a coccid infesting the sugar cane at Mauritius, and known there as the "*Pou à poche Blanche*." Later on Mr. Maskell, of New Zealand, made known another species belonging to that genus to which he gave the name of *Icerya Purchasi*.

It is apparently the species called here the "Australian Bug," so well-known for the harm it has done to our orange-orchards, and also to the Californian ones.

I say "*apparently*" the species known here, because having lately received some live examples of the so-called *Icerya Purchasi* from California, I was much struck by the difference between the young larvae and active females and ours. The antennae of the active and presumably fertilized female are considerably longer in the Californian species, the back is more obtusely conical and the "*filières*," or cirriferous pores are disposed differently. The American species does not reach the size of ours, which, as is but too well known to you, reaches, the waxy appendage included of course, nearly ten lines, and even one inch.

I think I can make bold to state that I do not believe the two insects to be one and the same species.

Up to 1890 only two *Icerya* were known, but a greater interest having been taken of late in this group of insects of so difficult a study, there is nothing surprising that discoveries of new species should have been made, and Messrs. Riley and Howard have made known four.

Now we have besides, *Icerya Purchasi* (Mask), and *Icerya Sacchari* (Sign.)

1. The Rose *Icerya*: *Icerya Rosae* (R. & H.), found in the United States.
2. The Egyptian *Icerya*: *Icerya Ægyptiacum* (Dougl.) Said to have first appeared upon the Banyan tree—a *figus*, I suppose—to have spread with marvellous rapidity to

many other plants, and to have infested the gardens of Alexandria for the past four years.

3. The Montserrat *Icerya* : *Icerya Montserratensis*. This last species is not found on the leaves of the lime according to Riley-Howard, but on another tree.
4. Palmer's *Icerya* : *Icerya Palmeri*. Found on the leaves of the Muscat of Alexandria grape-vine in Mexico, and lastly, I exhibit a very singular coccid, found in the Cape Peninsula, which if not a true *Icerya*, is very closely allied.

This coccus, which I'll call, for the present, *Icerya Mesembryanthemi*, is found on the Hottentot fig *M. edule*.

Unlike the eggs and young of the *Icerya Purchasi* which are of a salmon colour, those of *Mesembryanthemi* are green; the larvae however seem to be very active and have not the little setae on the last articulation of the antennae, which are so distinguishing a feature in those of the *I. Purchasi*. I have not been able to get the male as yet; when I do so, I shall be able to decide without doubt whether the insect I exhibit to-night is a true *Icerya* or an extremely close ally.

Of course an agglomeration of insects of that kind cannot fail to attract enemies, and I have already found two very minute *Hymenopterous* insects using this *Icerya* as a fit place for depositing their eggs. Some of the round punctures on the back of some females, show that the young parasites have found their means of exit, of course with a result fatal to their host, but beneficial to *their* kind.